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A NOTE ON THE LEVEL OF VILLAGE LIVELIHOOD  
IN THE UPPER RIO GRANDE AREA

Section of Human Surveys  
Soil Conservation Service

Region Eight

July, 1937



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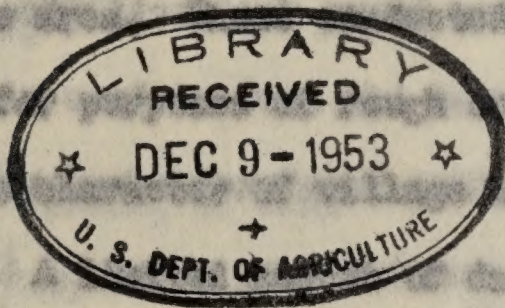
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 A NOTE ON THE LEVEL OF VILLAGE LIVELIHOOD

IN THE UPPER RIO GRANDE AREA //

provided only a rough indication of the standard of village living. The adequacy or inadequacy of the country can be judged better by an examination of the actual conditions and content of livelihood in the villages.

Available data, however, is extremely limited. Studies of consumption or standard of living have been made in

done in the area. In other rural areas, such as the almost adjacent villages in the Upper Rio Grande Area.



facilities has, however, been collected, which, while not definitive, may be used for purposes of illustration.

A single consumption group, or family, has been selected for illustrative purposes. This family included four persons, two adults and two children, aged 12 and 5 years respectively.

Section of Human Surveys  
 U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Southwest Region.

Region Eight  
 July, 1937

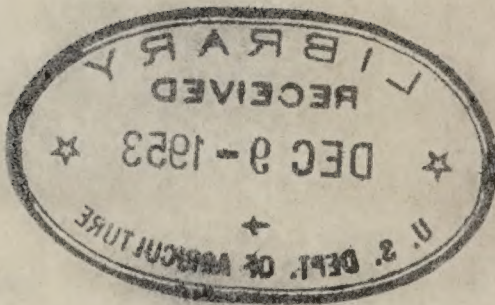
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(1) See report on "Villages Livelihood in the Upper Rio Grande Area".



A NOTE ON THE LEVEL OF VILLAGE PLANNING

IN THE UPPER RIO GRANDE AREA



Section of Human Survey

9. W.S. Soil Conservation Service, Southwest Region.

Region North

July, 1951



Analysis of data on income in the Spanish-American villages of the Upper Rio Grande Area indicates that the gross incomes of almost two-thirds of all village families were under \$600.<sup>(1)</sup> Monetary figures in themselves, however, provide only a rough indication of the standard of village living. The adequacy or inadequacy of the economy may be judged better by an examination of the actual substance and content of livelihood in the villages. Available data, however, is extremely limited. No studies of consumption or standard of living have been conducted in the area. Those conducted in other rural areas are useful only for purposes of rough comparison because of the almost unique character of village life in the Upper Rio Grande Area. A limited amount of data on a small number of families has, however, been collected, which, while not definitive, may be used for purposes of illustration. The following table: A single consumption group, or family, has been selected for illustrative purposes. This family includes four persons, two adults and two children, aged 12 and 9 respectively.

In its home, the Santa Cruz Valley, it is considered neither well-off nor poor. It is regarded as somewhat above the average in income. The head of this family considers himself independent and his income relatively satisfactory, as

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(1) See report on "Village Livelihood in the Upper Rio Grande Area".



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Area".



do his neighbors. He has not left the area for seasonal labor since 1919, and except for a few months after the drought of 1934 has never either applied for or received any type of relief. Detailed data on the income and expenditures of this family were secured from records kept by the family head.

The family selected lives in a three room adobe house in Cuarteles in the Santa Cruz Valley. It owns 14 acres of irrigated land which are included in the Santa Cruz Irrigation District. Of these 14 acres, however, almost 9 are water-logged and can be used only for vega and pasture. The remainder is in crops. The only livestock owned are two work horses. The vega and pasture is used to feed the two work horses, and to fatten the six wether lambs purchased each year for meat. In the base year 1935, as in every year but one since 1919, the family was dependent for its entire income upon the irrigated land. The crops and income from this land are indicated in the following table:

Crop	Acres	Cash Sales	Value Used At Home
Garden vegetables	0.25	\$ 5.00	\$ 20.00
Chili	1.00	156.00	62.00
Corn	2.00	0	90.50
Orchard	2.00	130.00	14.50
Vega and pasture	3.75	0	107.00
Total	14.00	\$341.00	\$298.00



in his neighborhood. He has not left the area for several years  
 since 1913, and enough for a few months after the opening of  
 1904 has never again applied for or received any type of relief.  
 Medical data on the income and expenditures of this family are  
 secured from records kept by the family itself.  
 The family consists of a father, mother, and three children.  
 The father is the owner of the property. It was in 1904  
 that the family moved into the house in the town of  
 1913. It was in 1904, however, that the father began  
 and has been only the year and a half. The remainder is in  
 1913. The only livestock owned are two work horses. The year  
 and pasture is used to feed the two work horses, and he has  
 the six other horses purchased each year for meat. In the year  
 1913, as in every year, he has about 100, and the family  
 depends for the winter income from the livestock. The  
 year and income from this land are detailed in the following

Income from livestock		Expenses for livestock	
Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1913	10.00	1913	10.00
1914	10.00	1914	10.00
1915	10.00	1915	10.00
1916	10.00	1916	10.00
1917	10.00	1917	10.00
1918	10.00	1918	10.00
1919	10.00	1919	10.00
1920	10.00	1920	10.00
1921	10.00	1921	10.00
1922	10.00	1922	10.00
1923	10.00	1923	10.00
1924	10.00	1924	10.00
1925	10.00	1925	10.00
1926	10.00	1926	10.00
1927	10.00	1927	10.00
1928	10.00	1928	10.00
1929	10.00	1929	10.00
1930	10.00	1930	10.00
1931	10.00	1931	10.00
1932	10.00	1932	10.00
1933	10.00	1933	10.00
1934	10.00	1934	10.00
1935	10.00	1935	10.00
1936	10.00	1936	10.00
1937	10.00	1937	10.00
1938	10.00	1938	10.00
1939	10.00	1939	10.00
1940	10.00	1940	10.00
1941	10.00	1941	10.00
1942	10.00	1942	10.00
1943	10.00	1943	10.00
1944	10.00	1944	10.00
1945	10.00	1945	10.00
1946	10.00	1946	10.00
1947	10.00	1947	10.00
1948	10.00	1948	10.00
1949	10.00	1949	10.00
1950	10.00	1950	10.00
1951	10.00	1951	10.00
1952	10.00	1952	10.00
1953	10.00	1953	10.00
1954	10.00	1954	10.00
1955	10.00	1955	10.00
1956	10.00	1956	10.00
1957	10.00	1957	10.00
1958	10.00	1958	10.00
1959	10.00	1959	10.00
1960	10.00	1960	10.00
1961	10.00	1961	10.00
1962	10.00	1962	10.00
1963	10.00	1963	10.00
1964	10.00	1964	10.00
1965	10.00	1965	10.00
1966	10.00	1966	10.00
1967	10.00	1967	10.00
1968	10.00	1968	10.00
1969	10.00	1969	10.00
1970	10.00	1970	10.00
1971	10.00	1971	10.00
1972	10.00	1972	10.00
1973	10.00	1973	10.00
1974	10.00	1974	10.00
1975	10.00	1975	10.00
1976	10.00	1976	10.00
1977	10.00	1977	10.00
1978	10.00	1978	10.00
1979	10.00	1979	10.00
1980	10.00	1980	10.00
1981	10.00	1981	10.00
1982	10.00	1982	10.00
1983	10.00	1983	10.00
1984	10.00	1984	10.00
1985	10.00	1985	10.00
1986	10.00	1986	10.00
1987	10.00	1987	10.00
1988	10.00	1988	10.00
1989	10.00	1989	10.00
1990	10.00	1990	10.00
1991	10.00	1991	10.00
1992	10.00	1992	10.00
1993	10.00	1993	10.00
1994	10.00	1994	10.00
1995	10.00	1995	10.00
1996	10.00	1996	10.00
1997	10.00	1997	10.00
1998	10.00	1998	10.00
1999	10.00	1999	10.00
2000	10.00	2000	10.00



(a) The total income of the family was \$635 with approximately half of it commercial income. Only a portion of the commercial income was received as actual cash; much of it was received directly in the form of goods at the trading store to which the surplus products were taken. A detailed list of the goods obtained in exchange for either surplus products or for cash follows:

1. Food and Household

Lard, 90 lbs.	\$20.25
Coffee, 45 lbs.	9.90
Beans, 200 lbs.	10.00
Potatoes 400 lbs.	8.00
Sugar 100 lbs.	7.50
6 wethers	12.00
1 hog	6.00
Soda 12 pkgs.	1.20
E. C. Baking Powder, 12 cans	3.00
Salt 100 lbs.	1.50
Flour 1,200 lbs.	40.80
	<u>\$122.15</u>

Only Wagon Expenses  
Subtotal

2. Clothing

(a) For Wife

1 coat	\$10.00
1 pair shoes	3.35
1 dress	4.98
1 dress	7.95
2 pair underwear	.76
3 house dresses	2.82
2 pair hose	.92
1 sweater	1.59
1 pair gloves	1.50

Subtotal

\$33.70

(b) For Man

3 workshirts	\$2.00
2 overalls	2.14
1 pair work shoes	2.50
1 pair Sunday shoes	3.00
2 Sunday shirts	2.00
3 pair light weight socks	.72
6 pair gloves	2.22
1 straw hat	1.00
4 pair underwear	3.60

\$20.58



The right hand side of the equation is

Very truly yours,

At the Commercial Union we received an article from

10-10-68

1. General

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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list includes names such as "Mr. J. H. Smith", "Mr. W. H. Jones", and "Mr. R. H. Brown".

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(c) For Grandson

1 pair overalls	\$1.57
1 pair shoes	2.00
1 pair shoes	1.50
1 suit	5.69
1 hat	1.50
3 pair socks	.55
2 underwear	1.34
3 workshirts	1.41

Farm and Household Equipment  
 \$15.58

(d) For Granddaughter

1 coat and 22 pair	\$3.49
1 dress	1.98
1 dress	1.79
1 dress	.68
1 hat	.88
2 pair hose	.20
1 cap	.35
1 pair shoes	2.00
1 pair shoes	.83
2 underwear	.94

\$13.23

3. Farm and Household Equipment

The value of the farm equipment used by the family was:

Gear	\$2.85
Pinions	.65
Plate with rivets	.79
Pitman, Woods	.50
Binder sections	.35
Knife head	.38
Pitman boxes	.62
Knife clips	1.03
Rake teeth	1.50
Side grinder	6.50
Flow point	2.10
Wagon skins	4.20
Wagon ties	14.00
Oak Wagon spokes	7.20
Hatches	1.20
Kerosene (12 gallons)	3.25
Gasoline (4 packages)	5.00
	\$40.77

4. Miscellaneous

Tobacco, candy	\$9.00
School books	5.00
Medicines	4.00
Church	6.00
Interest on credit purchases (10%)	4.00
Trips for sale of produce and to Santa Fe	25.00
Local Fiesta	3.00
Other	4.00
	\$60.00

Family in the Upper Rio Grande Area is comparable with that of  
 tenant and crapper families in the old South. The level indi-







The only other expenditures were \$25 paid to the Santa Cruz Irrigation District for water taxes and \$3 paid to the county for county taxes. A summary of the cash expenditures follows:

No analysis of the contents of the family living expenditure

Food	\$122.15
Clothing	85.42
Farm and House Equipment	49.17
Taxes	26.00
Miscellaneous	60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$341.34</b>

are at a minimum. There are no expenditures for health care. The value of the food furnished by the farm was \$253. and just \$4.00 for standard patent medicines. If no value is assigned to the housing and fuel used by the family, for which no expenditure other than that of labor was made, then the total value of the goods used by the family was three-fourths of all village families in the area.

\$638, food constituting \$415 of the total. The percentages of

the per capita value of the living of the family and the total value of the family living constituted by various as illustration is \$113. The average size of family in the types of goods are as follows:

Food	65%
Clothing	13%
Equipment	5%
Taxes	4%
Miscellaneous	10%

Examination of studies of farm family living in other sections of the country indicates that, in terms of total value family living is detailed above.

of family living and the distribution of the total value among

It is estimated that there are approximately 12,000 various types of goods, the level represented by this single Spanish-American and Indian families in the villages of the family in the Upper Rio Grande Area is comparable with that of

tenant and cropper families in the old South. The level indi-

(1) See report on "Villages Lived in the Upper Rio Grande Area".



The only other expenditures for the family

for the year 1934 were for the purchase of a new car and for the purchase of a new house. The total value of these expenditures was \$10,000.

Following

Food	\$1,000
Shelter	\$2,000
Transportation	\$1,000
Education	\$1,000
Health	\$1,000
Recreation	\$1,000
Other	\$1,000
Total	\$8,000

The value of the total expenditures for the year 1934 was \$10,000.

If we now compare the expenditures for the year 1934 with the expenditures for the year 1933, we find that the total value of the expenditures for the year 1934 was \$10,000, which is \$1,000 more than the total value of the expenditures for the year 1933. This increase in the total value of the expenditures for the year 1934 is due to the increase in the value of the expenditures for the year 1934.

Types of goods are as follows:

Food	\$1,000
Shelter	\$2,000
Transportation	\$1,000
Education	\$1,000
Health	\$1,000
Recreation	\$1,000
Other	\$1,000
Total	\$8,000

Comparison of the expenditures for the year 1934 with the expenditures for the year 1933, in terms of total value of family living and the distribution of the total value among various types of goods, was found to be as follows:

Family in the Upper Rio Grande Area is comparable with that of the family in the Lower Rio Grande Area. The level of living



cated by studies of family living of owner families in the Upper Rio Grande Area. The provision for such families in the South and of all types of families in other parts of the country is living similar to that described above, but the family living is generally considerably higher.

No analysis of the content of the family living detailed above can be attempted here. It may be noted, however, that the adequacy of the diet is at least open to question. The size of the family, even assuming even distribution of clothing purchased is meager. The expenditures for education income among all families is very low and the expenditures are at a minimum. There are no expenditures for health care, and just \$4.00 for standard patent medicines. Recreational expenses hardly exist, and there are no savings of any type. Yet the living of this family is more ample than that of about three-fourths of all village families in the area.

The per capita value of the living of the family used as illustration is \$189. The average size of family in the villages is 8, according to sample surveys.<sup>(1)</sup> The total income necessary to provide the living detailed above for the average family is, then, \$756. Surveys indicate that 64 per cent of all village families have incomes under \$600, and 18 per cent incomes between \$600 and \$1,000.<sup>(1)</sup> It may safely be estimated, therefore, that almost three-fourths of all village families live at a level lower than that represented by the family whose living is detailed above.

It is estimated that there are approximately 15,300 Spanish-American and Indian families in the villages of the

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(1) See report on "Village Livelihood in the Upper Rio Grande Area".







Upper Rio Grande Area. To provide for each of these families a living similar to that detailed above, \$755 per family or a total of almost \$12,200,000 would be required. It has been estimated(1) that the total income of these families in 1938 was approximately \$10,000,000, including \$1,400,000 from relief. The size of the deficit, even assuming even distribution of income among all families is some indication of the problem of the native populations of the Upper Rio Grande Area.

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(1) "Village Livelihood in the Upper Rio Grande Area."



of the water resources of the Upper St. Lawrence River  
basins have all been included in the planning of the project  
The size of the project, which would be approximately \$1,200,000,000,  
was approximately \$12,000,000, including \$1,200,000,000 for water,  
estimated that the total income of these basins in 1988  
would be about \$12,000,000,000 would be required. It has been  
a finding similar to that reported above, that the benefit of a  
Upper St. Lawrence River. It provides for the use of these basins







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